

Application Serial No. 10/092,571
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (new) A system for reducing prescribed medication errors comprising:

(a) a computer system for allowing a physician to retrieve a patient's health record to enter prescription information for prescribing medication specific to the patient and the patient's medical condition and for preparing a prescription form in multiple parts, one part containing a bar code representing the prescription information and a second part containing a graphic representation of the medication being prescribed;

(b) the computer system for printing the prescription form for providing to a pharmacy; and

(c) a bar code scanning system for use by the pharmacy to simultaneously compare the bar code on the prescription form to a bar code on medication prepared by the pharmacy for allowing the pharmacy to identify any discrepancies between the two bar codes and therefore identify any potential prescribing errors.

10. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein once the physician identifies the patient and enters the prescription information, the computer system also verifies the prescription information against the patient's medical condition and against contraindications and drug interactions with other current patient prescriptions.

11. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein once the physician identifies the patient the computer system also checks a health plan formulary for the patient for drug approval.

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12. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein the prescription information includes the prescribed medication's name and strength.

13. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein the computer system is a personal digital assistant in communication with a printer.

14. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein once the physician identifies the patient the computer system also flags any patient allergies.

15. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein the bar code scanning system permits a match between a prescription bar code for a brand name drug and a bar code for pharmacy-prepared medication for a generic name drug which corresponds to the brand name drug.

16. (new) A system as in claim 15 wherein the bar code for the generic name drug is added to the patient's record to prevent mix-ups on refills.

17. (new) A system as in claim 16 wherein the bar code for the generic name drug will not match a bar code for another generic name drug, even if both generic name drugs are substitutes for the same brand name drug, to help prevent mix-ups on refills.

18. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein the prescription form contains a second bar code which corresponds to the patient's record for allowing the pharmacy to review the patient's record for consistency as a further safeguard against chart mix-ups and patient data entry errors.

19. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein the prescription form also includes a checklist of the prescription's proper use by the patient for comparing against the instructions provided on the medication dispensed by the pharmacy.

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20. (new) A system as in claim 9 wherein the graphic representation of the medication being prescribed is detached from the prescription form for placement beside the patient's hospital bed in a bedside visual display for allowing a nurse to visually compare any medication for administering to the patient against the bedside visual display to prevent mix-ups.

21. (new) A system as in claim 20 wherein the patient checklist is also placed in the bedside visual display.

22. (new) A system for reducing prescribed medication errors comprising:

(a) a computer for allowing a physician to enter prescription information for a specific patient and condition and for preparing a prescription form containing a bar code coinciding with the prescription information along with a graphic representation of the medication being prescribed;

(b) means for electronically transmitting the prescription form to a pharmacy;

(c) a printer for the pharmacy to print the prescription form containing a bar code; and

(c) a bar code scanning system for use by the pharmacy to simultaneously compare the bar code on the prescription form to a bar code or medication prepared by the pharmacy for allowing the pharmacy to identify any discrepancies between the two bar codes and therefore identify a prescribing error.

23. (new) A system as in claim 22 wherein the computer encrypts the prescription information prior to sending it electronically to the pharmacy.

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24. (new) A method for reducing prescribed medication errors comprising:

- (a) providing a prescribing physician with a computer for accepting and storing prescription information for a specific patient and condition to allow the physician to print a prescription form containing at least one bar code representing the prescription information along with a graphic representation of the medication being prescribed for placement beside the patient's hospital bed in a bedside visual display for allowing a nurse to visually compare any medication for administering to the patient against the bedside visual display to prevent mix-ups;
- (b) providing the prescription form to a pharmacy;
- (c) preparing medication matching the description on the prescription form;
and
- (d) comparing the bar code on the prescription form simultaneously with the bar code on the medication for identifying any non-matching information.

25. (new) A method as in claim 24 wherein the patient visually checks the medication provided to the patient by the pharmacy against the prescription form's graphic representation of the medication.

26. (new) A method for reducing prescribed medication errors comprising:

- (a) selecting a drug from a list available on a computer for prescribing therapeutic treatment to a patient;
- (b) selecting a patient's record from a list available on the computer;
- (c) using the computer for checking for suitability of the prescribed drug for the patient;
- (d) using a printer in operative communication with the computer for printing a computer generated bar code representing the drug name and strength;

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- (e) using the printer for printing a patient checklist including an illustration of the drug to add to the prescription;
- (f) using a bar code scanner for comparing the computer generated bar code against a bar code used for a drug stock container for flagging non-matching codes; and
- (g) comparing the patient checklist against the instructions provided with the dispensed drug to determine if the drug dispensed to the patient matches the drug selected for the therapeutic treatment of the patient.